

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Office Action requires a restriction to one of the following sets of claims:

- I. Claims 1-8, 18-22, 24-31, and 41;
- II. Claims 9-14, 23, 32-37, and 42
- III. Claims 15-17, 38-40, and 43.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects invention I, claims 1-8, 18-22, 24-31, and 41, without traverse.

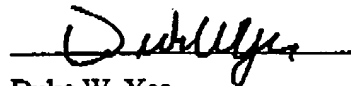
Claims 9-14, 23, 32-37, and 42, to non-elected invention II, and claims 15-17, 38-40, and 43, to non-elected invention III are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is respectfully urged that the subject application be reconsidered.

II. Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 5/17/04

Respectfully submitted,



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